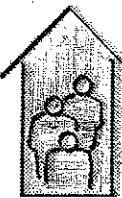


National Symposium
on Homelessness
and Housing



Colloque national sur
les sans-abri et
le logement

National Symposium on Homelessness and Housing

Toronto, Ontario
March 25 – 26, 1999

Support for this event has been provided by:



Human Resources
Development Canada

Développement des
ressources humaines Canada

Welcome to the Symposium

March 25, 1999

To Symposium Participants:

Welcome to the National Symposium on Homelessness and Housing — and welcome to the City of Toronto. We are pleased that so many of you have joined us — from coast to coast and from so many different sectors.

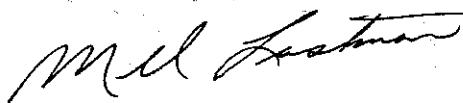
The Symposium has been designed to facilitate discussion about innovative strategies for addressing the issues of affordable housing and homelessness. It has also been developed with the intent of providing input into the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' National Policy Options Paper.

All components of the program, from the panel discussions to the workshops, involve recognized experts and practitioners from across the country who are working in our communities.

This is a significant gathering that will move us toward tackling the pervasive and growing problems of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing in all parts of Canada.

Thank you for your commitment. We look forward to working with you over the next two days.

Cordially,



Mel Lastman
Mayor
City of Toronto



Claude Cantin
President
Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Introducing the Program...

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Location: Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
(at Bay Street)

9:30 A.M. **REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**
Security desk area, Toronto City Hall

10:00 A.M. **NATIONAL POLICY OPTIONS TEAM MEETING**
Council Chambers, Toronto City Hall
Open to anyone who is interested in the work of the Team

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is currently developing a National Housing Policy Options (NHPOT) Paper. The aim of this paper is to provide a menu of options and strategies that are suited for different regions throughout the country. The paper is intended to provide a rationale for government re-involvement and to identify the magnitude of publicly-supported housing activity required to address national needs. The paper will be set within the broader context and will link the issues of affordable housing to homelessness, poverty and other social factors.

Throughout the symposium, and in each workshop, people will be asked questions that will feed into the NHPOT paper. As well, there will be two opportunities when the NHPOT team will caucus to bring together input that has been generated at the symposium. Come join others from across Canada to have input into this exciting piece of work.

11:45 A.M. **CAUCUS OPPORTUNITIES**

Community Sector Caucus

Hosted by the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee

This caucus offers an opportunity for community-based organizations and groups to come together to share experiences and approaches.

Municipal Sector Caucus

Join this special meeting and explore the changing role of municipalities in addressing homelessness and housing.

1:00 P.M. **LUNCHEON**

Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall

2:00 P.M. **SYMPOSIUM OPENING CEREMONIES**
Council Chambers, Toronto City Hall

Welcome and introductions:

- Moderated by Bob Hawkesworth
Alderman, City of Calgary
- His Worship Mayor Mel Lastman
City of Toronto
- Mr. Claude Cantin
President,
Federation of Canadian Municipalities

2:20 P.M. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Council Chambers, Toronto City Hall

Dr. Anne Golden

Chair, Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force
President, United Way of Greater Toronto

3:00 P.M. **CROSS-CANADA PANEL RESPONSE AND DISCUSSION**

Guest Panelists:

- Dr. Roger Gibbins
President, Canada West Foundation Calgary
- Alex Munter
Councillor, Chair, Human Services Committee,
Region of Ottawa-Carleton
- Gerry Weiner
Councillor, City of Montreal
- Vanessa Geary
Tenants' Rights Action Coalition,
City of Vancouver

4:30 P.M. BREAK/WALK TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

5:00 P.M. SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: MIXED COMPANY'S COBBLESTONE YOUTH TROUPE
Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen Street East

6:00 P.M. SYMPOSIUM DINNER
Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen Street East

This dinner will feature conversation about the contributions and perspectives of the voluntary sector. Speakers will highlight their work in the community, their perspective as volunteers, how they see their role within the broader context, and their concerns.

Dinner speakers:

- Margaret Norquay
Volunteer and Activist, Metropolitan United Church/Out-of-the-Cold, Toronto
- Fred Robertson
Community Activist, Calgary
- Emma Rooney
Voices for Justice in Housing, St. John's

8:00 P.M. ADJOURNMENT FOR EVENING

Friday, March 26, 1999

Location: Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen Street East

8:00 A.M. LIGHT BREAKFAST

About the Morning Workshops...

Workshops have been designed to engage participants in small group discussions that focus on both high-risk groups and strategies to address homelessness and housing. Each workshop is divided into two one-hour segments.

In the first hour, three to four presenters from cities across Canada will act as "discussion stimulators" – offering their perspectives, experiences and approaches.

The second hour will feature facilitated discussion that will engage participants in exploring experiences and issues that need to be addressed.

8:30 A.M. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

In recognition of the diverse group of people affected by homelessness and the need to develop strategies specific to the needs of these groups, this set of workshops will focus on the incidence and impact of homelessness on the following high risk groups:

1. Youth
2. Urban aboriginal community
3. Families and children
4. Immigrants and refugees

10:30 A.M. BREAK

10:45 A.M. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

These workshops are intended to explore some key community-wide responses to the broader causes of homelessness.

1. *Affordable housing development and rehabilitation*
This session provides an opportunity for participants to examine development ideas at the local level, including social housing, supportive housing and innovative approaches.

2. *Health strategies and issues/harm reduction*

In this session, participants will explore health and mental health issues and approaches from a diversity of perspectives, with an emphasis on the need for an integrated approach.

3. *Community economic development*

This session offers an opportunity to observe approaches that enable poor and unemployed people to participate in their community and achieve greater economic independence.

4. *Municipalities and communities working together*

In this session, participants can examine coalition building and relationship building between municipalities and the community sector.

12:45 P.M. LUNCH

1:30 P.M. CLOSING SESSION

- Hosted by the National Policy Options Team
- Chaired by Jack Layton, Vice-President, FCM and Councillor, City of Toronto

This is your opportunity to hear about the key themes and issues identified throughout the various symposium workshops. Each facilitator will provide a brief overview of the themes and opportunities for action discussed in their workshop. The session will provide you with a chance to hear about what has been learned from across the country, and local approaches that can be used to address homelessness and housing. As well, this session will provide an opportunity to hear additional input into the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' National Policy Options Paper.

3:15 P.M. WRAP-UP

3:30 P.M. SYMPOSIUM ADJOURNED

4:00 P.M. DE-BRIEF MEETING

National Policy Options Team

This one-hour team meeting is open to anyone who is interested in participating.

Introducing the Keynote Speaker

Dr. Anne Golden

Dr. Anne Golden, Chair of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force for the City of Toronto, has been the President of the United Way of Greater Toronto since December 1987. As President, she is responsible for the overall success of Canada's largest annual fundraising campaign (\$60.2 million in 1998).

Prior to becoming President, Dr. Golden worked for the United Way for six years, first as Director of Allocations and then as Campaign Director. In 1995, she was seconded to serve as Chair of the Greater Toronto Area Task Force, formed to respond to growing concerns about health and workability of the city-region.

Dr. Golden holds an M.A. from Columbia and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. She has served as Research Coordinator for the Bureau of Municipal Research in Toronto, Special Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition at Queen's Park, and as Director of Liberal Policy Research for the Ontario Liberal Party.

Introducing the Evening Performers

Established in 1983, Mixed Company is a not-for-profit theatre company. In addition to their professional season, Mixed Company works with communities and individuals to develop options, alternatives and solutions to key social issues through an interactive dramatic process. The Cobblestone Youth Troupe is just one of Mixed Company's many groups and troupes that provide unique insights on a variety of social issues.

The Cobblestone Youth Troupe, consisting of youth 14 - 24 years of age, explores thorny topics such as homelessness, family issues, shelter, food and credibility issues for street youth. The troupe presents theatre scenes around selected issues, and then facilitates an interactive forum between the actors and the audience, to explore alternatives to the conflict at hand in "a rehearsal for reality."

The troupe has toured shelters, drop-ins and youth service programs across Toronto.

About Lunch and Dinner

The luncheon and dinner on March 25th are catered by Field to Table, a project of FoodShare. This organization provides the community with fresh, nutritious and affordable food. The Good Food Box and catering services feature top quality local, in-season fruits and vegetables. Also, the Toronto Kitchen Incubator provides a licensed commercial kitchen to fledgling food businesses at affordable rates.

Symposium Details

Symposium Message Centre

Check for messages on the boards set up at both conference locations. If you would like to leave a message, symposium message slips are included in your registration package. If your associates need to leave a telephone message for you, they can call symposium staff at (416) 392-8420.

Share Your Opinion

A feedback form is included in your registration kit. To ensure that this event, and future events like it, best meets your needs, please take a moment and complete the evaluation.

Need Directions?

If you need directions to a symposium location or room, or if you have general questions about the symposium, just ask one of the symposium staff, who will be present at all activities and will be available at key areas at both conference locations. Just look for the people wearing the raspberry-coloured name tags.

Transportation

Toronto's transit system is safe, clean, and accessible. A subway, bus, streetcar and rail network stretches across the city, with many stops in the downtown core. The nearest subway entrance is located in the Toronto Eaton Centre through the Albert Street entrance, one block away from Toronto City Hall. Just ask a symposium volunteer to guide you in the right direction, and then look for the subway sign. Taxis are also readily available, especially throughout the downtown core.

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